

Application No. 10/586,683  
Attorney Docket No. 293524US

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Proposed Amendment of Claim 1

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A process for preparing dinitrotoluene, comprising:

- a) reacting toluene with nitric acid in the presence of sulfuric acid to give a mononitrotoluene reaction mixture having an elevated toluene content and nitric acid present;
- b) separating the mononitrotoluene reaction mixture from a) in a dynamic separator into an organic phase comprising mononitrotoluene and an aqueous phase comprising sulfuric acid;
- c) reacting the organic phase comprising mononitrotoluene with nitric acid in the presence of sulfuric acid to give a dinitrotoluene reaction mixture; and
- d) separating the dinitrotoluene reaction mixture from c) into an organic phase comprising dinitrotoluene and an aqueous phase comprising sulfuric acid; wherein the mononitrotoluene reaction mixture from a) has a content of toluene of from greater than 0.5 to 8% by weight, based on the organic phase, and a content of nitric acid of from 0.1 to 1.2% by weight, based on the aqueous phase, and the phase separation in b) is effected in such a way that further reaction of the toluene with the nitric acid is prevented.